

DOCKET NO. D-2009-001 CP-3

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Discharge to a Tributary of Special Protection Waters

**Buck Hill Falls Company
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania**

PROCEEDINGS

This docket is issued in response to an Application submitted to the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC or Commission) by Buck Hill Falls Company (docket holder) on May 11, 2015 (Application), for the renewal of an existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and its discharge. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. PA0029483 for this project was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) on February 29, 2012.

The Application was reviewed for continuation of the project in the Comprehensive Plan and approval under Section 3.8 of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*. The Monroe County Planning Commission has been notified of pending action. A public hearing on this project was held by the DRBC on August 10, 2016.

A. DESCRIPTION

- 1. Purpose.** The purpose of this docket is to renew the approval of the docket holder's existing 0.2 million gallon per day (mgd) Buck Hill Falls WWTP and its discharge. No modifications to the WWTP are proposed.
- 2. Location.** The project WWTP is located off Rabbit Run Road in the Buck Hill Falls section of Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. The WWTP will continue to discharge to Buck Hill Creek, which is a tributary to Brodhead Creek, at River Mile 213.00 – 21.11 – 0.50 (Delaware River – Brodhead Creek – Buck Hill Creek), and is located within the drainage area to the Middle Delaware Special Protection Waters (SPW).

The WWTP discharge is located in the Brodhead Creek Watershed, as follows:

OUTFALL NO.	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
001	41° 11' 45"	75° 15' 42"

3. Area Served. The docket holder's WWTP will continue to serve the Buck Hill Falls section of Barrett Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Buck Hill Falls' connections consist of 309 homes and 5 businesses.

For the purpose of defining the Area Served, Section B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent consistent with all other conditions contained in the DECISION Section of this docket.

4. Physical Features.

a. Design Criteria. The existing 0.2 mgd WWTP was built in 1914 and modified in 1948. The WWTP utilizes a trickling filter treatment process.

b. Facilities. The WWTP treatment process consists of four (4) stages. The first stage consists of two (2) settling basins (one primary and one secondary) to remove particulates. The second stage is a trickling filter. The third stage is a settling tank dosed with sodium hypochlorite for disinfection. The fourth stage is a sand filtration bed system consisting of four (4) beds for final treatment prior to stream discharge.

The docket holder's WWTP discharges to waters classified as SPW and is required to have available standby power. The docket holder indicated in the Application that the WWTP has a generator installed capable of providing standby power. (SPW)

The docket holder's WWTP is not staffed 24 hours per day, and shall have a remote alarm system that continuously monitors plant operations in accordance with the Commission's SPW requirements. The docket holder indicated in the Application that existing WWTP has a remote alarm and auto dialer system installed that continuously monitors plant operations. (SPW)

The docket holder has prepared and implemented an emergency management plan (EMP) for the existing WWTP in accordance with Commission SPW requirements. (SPW)

The project facilities are not located in the 100-year flood zone.

Wasted sludge will continue to be hauled off-site by a licensed hauler for disposal at a state approved facility.

c. Water Withdrawals. The potable water supply in the project service area is provided by ground water wells, surface water intakes, and a spring operated by the docket

holder. The water withdrawals were approved in Docket No. D-2009-002 CP-1 on March 11, 2015.

d. **NPDES Permit / DRBC Docket.** NPDES Permit No. PA0029483 was approved by the PADEP on March 1, 2012 and includes final effluent limitations for the project discharge of 0.2 mgd to surface waters classified by the PADEP as Exceptional Value (EV) Waters. The following average monthly effluent limits are among those listed in the NPDES Permit and meet or are more stringent than the effluent requirements of the DRBC.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-1: DRBC Parameters Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Buck Hill Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
pH (Standard Units)	6 to 9 at all times	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Suspended Solids	30 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Dissolved Oxygen	5.0 mg/l (minimum at all times)	As required by NPDES Permit
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C)	25 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Ammonia Nitrogen (5-1 to 10-31) (11-1 to 4-30)	3.0 mg/l 9.0 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Fecal Coliform (5-1 to 9-30) (10-1 to 4-30)	200 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg. 2000 colonies per 100 ml as a geo. avg.	As required by NPDES Permit
Total Dissolved Solids*	1,000 mg/l	As required by NPDES Permit
Phosphorus	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit
Nitrate – Nitrite as Nitrogen	Monitor & Report	As required by NPDES Permit

* See DECISION Condition II.q.

The requirements in EFFLUENT TABLE A-2 are not listed in the NPDES Permit, but are Commission basin-wide parameters that must be met as a condition of this docket approval.

EFFLUENT TABLE A-2: DRBC Parameters Not Included in NPDES Permit

OUTFALL 001 (Buck Hill Creek)		
PARAMETER	LIMIT	MONITORING
CBOD (5-Day at 20° C) Influent	Monitor & Report	Monthly

f. **Relationship to the Comprehensive Plan.** The docket holder's WWTP was added to the Comprehensive Plan via Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-1 on July 15, 2009 and continued via Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-2 on July 13, 2011. This docket (D-2009-001 CP-3) continues the project WWTP in the Comprehensive Plan.

B. FINDINGS

The docket holder submitted an Application to renew the approval of the existing 0.2 mgd Buck Hill Falls WWTP. No modifications to the WWTP are proposed.

In 1992, the DRBC adopted SPW requirements, as part of the DRBC *Water Quality Regulations (WQR)*, designed to protect existing high water quality in applicable areas of the Delaware River Basin. One hundred twenty miles of the Delaware River from Hancock, New York downstream to the Delaware Water Gap has been classified by the DRBC as SPW. This stretch includes the sections of the river federally designated as "Wild and Scenic" in 1978 -- the Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area -- as well as an eight-mile reach between Milrift and Milford, Pennsylvania which is not federally designated. The SPW regulations apply to this 120-mile stretch of the river and its drainage area. (Upper/Middle SPW)

On July 16, 2008, the DRBC approved amendments to its *WQR* that provide increased protection for waters that the Commission classifies as SPW. The portion of the Delaware River and its tributaries within the boundary of the Lower Delaware River Management Plan Area was approved for SPW designation and clarity on definitions and terms were updated for the entire program. (Upper/Middle SPW)

The docket holder's WWTP is located in the Middle Delaware SPW. Article 3.10.3A.2.e.1). and 2). of the Commission's *WQR* states that projects subject to review under Section 3.8 of the Compact that are located in the drainage area of SPW must submit for approval a Non-Point Source Pollution Control Plan (NPSPCP) that controls the new or increased non-point source loads generated within the portion of the docket holder's service area which is also located within the drainage area of SPW. The service area of the docket holder is located within in the drainage area to the SPW. Since this project does not entail additional construction and expansion of facilities or service area and there are not any new or increased non-point source loads associated with this approval, the NPSPCP requirement is not applicable at this time. Accordingly, DECISION Conditions II.m. have been included in this docket.

Near the project site, Buck Hill Creek has an estimated seven-day low flow with a recurrence interval of ten years (Q_{7-10}) of 0.34 mgd (0.53 cfs). The ratio of this low flow to the average design wastewater discharge from the 0.2 mgd project WWTP is 1.7 to 1.

The nearest surface water intake of record for public water supply is located on Brodhead Creek approximately 15 River Miles downstream of the docket holder's WWTP, and is operated by Brodhead Creek Regional Authority.

The project does not conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and is designed to prevent substantial adverse impact on the water resources related environment, while sustaining the current and future water uses and development of the water resources of the Basin.

The effluent limits in the NPDES Permit are in compliance with Commission effluent quality requirements, where applicable.

The project is designed to produce a discharge meeting the effluent requirements as set forth in the Commission's *WQR*.

C. DECISION

I. Effective on the approval date for Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-3 below:

a. The project described in Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-2 is removed from the Comprehensive Plan to the extent that it is not included in Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-3; and

b. Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-2 is terminated and replaced by Docket No. D-2009-001 CP-3; and

c. The project and the appurtenant facilities described in the Section A "Physical Features" of this docket shall be continued in the Comprehensive Plan.

II. The project and appurtenant facilities as described in Section A "Physical Features" of this docket are approved pursuant to Section 3.8 of the *Compact*, subject to the following conditions:

a. Docket approval is subject to all conditions, requirements, and limitations imposed by the PADEP in its NPDES permit, and such conditions, requirements, and limitations are incorporated herein, unless they are less stringent than the Commission's.

b. The facility and operational records shall be available at all times for inspection by the DRBC.

c. The facility shall be operated at all times to comply with the requirements of the Commission's *WQR* and *Flood Plain Regulations (FPR)*.

d. The docket holder shall comply with the requirements contained in the EFFLUENT TABLES in Section A.4.d. of this docket. The docket holder shall submit the required monitoring results electronically to the DRBC Project Review Section via email aemr@drbc.state.nj.us on the **Annual Effluent Monitoring Report Form** located at this web address: <http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/programs/project/pr/info.html>. The monitoring results shall be submitted annually, absent any observed limit violations, by January 31. If a DRBC effluent limit is violated, the docket holder shall submit the result(s) to the DRBC within 30 days of the violation(s) and provide a written explanation that states the action(s) the docket holder has taken to correct the violation(s) and protect against any future violations.

e. Except as otherwise authorized by this docket, if the docket holder seeks relief from any limitation based upon a DRBC water quality standard or minimum treatment requirement, the docket holder shall apply for approval from the Executive Director or for a docket revision in accordance with Section 3.8 of the *Compact* and the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*.

f. If at any time the receiving treatment plant proves unable to produce an effluent that is consistent with the requirements of this docket approval, no further connections shall be permitted until the deficiency is remedied.

g. Nothing herein shall be construed to exempt the docket holder from obtaining all necessary permits and/or approvals from other State, Federal or local government agencies having jurisdiction over this project.

h. The docket holder is permitted to treat and discharge wastewaters as set forth in the Area Served Section of this docket, which incorporates by reference Sections B (Type of Discharge) and D (Service Area) of the docket holder's Application to the extent consistent with all other conditions of this DECISION Section.

i. The docket holder shall discharge wastewater in such a manner as to avoid injury or damage to fish or wildlife and shall avoid any injury to public or private property.

j. No sewer service connections shall be made to newly constructed premises with plumbing fixtures and fittings that do not comply with water conservation performance standards contained in Resolution No. 88-2 (Revision 2).

k. Nothing in this docket approval shall be construed as limiting the authority of DRBC to adopt and apply charges or other fees to this discharge or project.

l. The issuance of this docket approval shall not create any private or proprietary rights in the waters of the Basin, and the Commission reserves the right to amend, suspend or rescind the docket for cause, in order to ensure proper control, use and management of the water resources of the Basin.

m. Prior to allowing connections from any new service areas or any new developments, the docket holder shall either submit and have approved by the Executive Director of the DRBC a NPSPCP in accordance with Section 3.10.3.A.2.e, or receive written confirmation from the Executive Director of the DRBC that the new service area is in compliance with a DRBC approved NPSPCP.

n. Unless the docket holder requests an extension that is approved by the Commission in advance, in accordance with paragraph 11 of the Commission's Project Review Fee schedule (Resolution No. 2009-2), the docket holder is responsible for timely submittal of a docket renewal application on the appropriate DRBC application form at least 12 months in advance of the docket expiration date set forth below. The docket holder will be subject to late

charges in the event of untimely submittal of its renewal application, whether or not DRBC issues a reminder notice in advance of the deadline or the docket holder receives such notice. In the event that a timely and complete application for renewal has been submitted and the DRBC is unable, through no fault of the docket holder, to reissue the docket before the expiration date below (or the later date established by an extension that has been timely requested and approved), the terms and conditions of the current docket will remain fully effective and enforceable against the docket holder pending the grant or denial of the application for docket approval.

o. The Executive Director may modify or suspend this approval or any condition thereof, or require mitigating measures pending additional review, if in the Executive Director's judgment such modification or suspension is required to protect the water resources of the Basin.

p. Any person who objects to a docket decision by the Commission may request a hearing in accordance with Article 6 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure*. In accordance with Section 15.1(p) of the *Delaware River Basin Compact*, cases and controversies arising under the *Compact* are reviewable in the United States district courts.

q. The docket holder may request of the Executive Director in writing the substitution of specific conductance for TDS. The request should include information that supports the effluent specific correlation between TDS and specific conductance. Upon review, the Executive Director may modify the docket to allow the substitution of specific conductance for TDS monitoring.

r. The docket holder is prohibited from treating/pre-treating any hydraulic fracturing wastewater from sources in or out of the Basin at this time. Should the docket holder wish to treat/pre-treat hydraulic fracturing wastewater in the future, the docket holder will need to first apply to the Commission to renew this docket and be issued a revised docket allowing such treatment and an expanded service area. Failure to obtain this approval prior to treatment/pre-treatment will result in action by the Commission.

s. Prior to the docket holder initiating any substantial alterations or additions to the existing WWTP as defined in Section 3.10.3A2.a.16) of the Commission's *WQR*, an application must be submitted and approved by the Commission. Such an application shall be submitted prior to final design to ensure that the Commission can provide the docket holder with draft effluent limitations for SPW specific parameters as guidance for design as to not require duplication of work or cause a substantial expenditure of public funds without Commission approval. The docket holder is encouraged to contact the Commission staff during the planning stages to identify the potential effluent limitations required to meet the no measurable change parameters under SPW.

BY THE COMMISSION

DATE APPROVED: September 14, 2016

EXPIRATION DATE: February 28, 2022